

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- SUB A17
1. A method for allowing a user to search program object interface repositories, said interface repositories comprising an on-line database accessible through a *object request broker protocol* search and query protocol, said interface repositories being stored on one or more server computers, said available program objects' interface descriptions containing object specifications, the method comprising the steps of:
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- providing a plurality of search criteria fields and a search icon on a graphical user display of a networked client computer;
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- receiving one or more criterion input from a user via said search criteria fields followed by selection of the search icon;
- performing at least one search of at least one interface repository using said *object request broker protocol* search and query protocol for available program objects for which a match exists between the program objects' specifications and the criterion
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- input; and *object interfaces*
- displaying a list of available *object interfaces* program objects which match said criterion input on said graphical user display.
2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes receiving a program object name.
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3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes receiving program object repository identifier.

4. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes receiving program object server identifier.
5. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes receiving program object container identifier.
6. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of performing at least one search of at least one interface repository includes performing a CORBA Interface Repository query.
7. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying a list of available program objects includes sorting the list by program object name.
8. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying a list of available program objects includes sorting the list by program object server identifier.
9. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying a list of available program objects includes sorting the list by program object container identifier.
10. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying a list of available program objects includes sorting the list by program object modification date.
11. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of storing said criterion input and said list of available program objects for later recall or review.

12. The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said step of storing said criterion input and list further comprises storing a user-supplied remark associated with the criterion input and list.

13. The method as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising the step of providing a history list viewable by a user, said history list comprising a summary of previously stored criterion input and lists.

14. A computer-readable medium containing program code suitable execution by an object-oriented software development workstation, said program code allowing a user to search program object interface repositories, said interface repositories comprising an on-line database accessible through a search and query protocol, said interface repositories being stored on one or more server computers, said available program objects' interface descriptions containing program object specifications, said workstation having a processor suitable for executing program code, the program code causing the workstation to perform the steps of:

providing a plurality of search criteria fields and a search icon on a graphical user display of said workstation;

receiving one or more criterion input from a user via said search criteria fields followed by selection of the search icon;

performing at least one search of at least one interface repository using said search and query protocol for available program objects for which

matches exists between the program objects' specifications and the criterion input; and

displaying a list of available program objects which match said criterion input on said graphical user display.

- 5 15. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes program code for receiving a program object name.
16. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes program code for receiving program object repository identifier.
- 10 17. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes program code for receiving program object server identifier.
18. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for receiving one or more criterion input from a user includes program code for receiving program object container identifier.
- 15 19. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for performing at least one search of at least one interface repository includes program code for performing a CORBA Interface Repository query.
- 20 20. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for displaying a list of available program objects includes program code for sorting the list by program object name.

21. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for displaying a list of available program objects includes program code for sorting the list by program object server identifier.
22. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for displaying a list of available program objects includes program code for sorting the list by program object container identifier.
23. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said program code for displaying a list of available program objects includes program code for sorting the list by program object modification date.
24. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 14 further comprises program code for storing said criterion input and said list of available program objects for later recall or review.
25. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 24 wherein said program code for storing said criterion input and list further comprises program code for storing a user-supplied remark associated with the criterion input and list.
26. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 24 further comprising program code for providing a history list viewable by a user, said history list comprising a summary of previously stored criterion input and lists.
27. An interface repository search facility in an object-oriented software development workstation for allowing a user to search program object interface repositories, said interface repositories comprising at least one on-line database accessible through a search and query protocol, said interface

repositories being stored on one or more server computers, said available  
program objects' interface descriptions containing program object  
specifications, said interface repository search facility comprising:

a graphical user interface having a plurality of search criteria fields and  
a search icon displayed thereon;

one or more user input devices for inputting one or more search  
criterion into said search criteria fields, and for selection by a user of the  
search icon;

an interface repository searcher for searching one or more interface  
repositories using said search and query protocol for available program objects  
for which matches exists between the program object specifications and the  
input search criterion; and

a result list of available program objects which match said search  
criterion, said result list displayed on said graphical user interface.

28. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 wherein said  
search criteria fields includes a field for specifying a program object name.

29. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 wherein said  
search criteria fields includes a field for specifying a program object repository  
identifier.

30. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 wherein said  
search criteria fields includes a field for specifying a program object server  
identifier.

31. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 wherein said search criteria fields includes a field for specifying a program object container identifier.
32. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 wherein said interface repository searcher is adapted to perform CORBA Interface Repository queries and searches.
33. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 further comprising a result list sorter for sorting the result list by program object name.
34. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 further comprising a result list sorter for sorting the result list by program object server identifier.
35. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 further comprising a result list sorter for sorting the result list by program object container identifier.
36. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 further comprising a result list sorter for sorting the result list by program object modification date.
37. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 27 further comprising a search storing facility for storing said criterion input and said list of available program objects for later recall or review.

38. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 37 wherein said search storing facility further comprises a remark editor for storing a user-supplied remark associated with the criterion input and list.
39. The interface repository search facility as set forth in Claim 37 further comprising a history list manager for creating and producing a search history list viewable by a user, said history list comprising a summary of previously stored criterion input and lists.

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